

IOWA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

September 23, 2021

The minutes of the Iowa Water Environment Association Executive Committee Meeting held at Prairie Meadows in Altoona on September 23, 2021.

ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Patrick Brown, at 4:14 PM, with the following other Executive Committee members present: Bob Ranson, Dan Miers, John Ringelestein, Lyle Kreuger, Darin Jacobs, Mike Tripp, Steve Hoambrecker, and Jim McElvogue. Other members present were Taylor Hopper, Greg Sindt, Adam Smith, Mark Jones, Keith Hobson, Jason Loots, Jim Utter, and Jay Brady.

ITEM II: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by John Ringelestein, and seconded by Bob Ranson, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Dan Miers, and seconded by Bob Ranson, to approve the minutes of June 18, 2021. Motion carried.

ITEM IV: COMMITTEE ACTION/DIRECTION REQUESTS

A. Aims & Objectives

Jim McElvogue reported that changes were made to the Manual of Policies and Practices to eliminate the position of CEU Administrator and revise the rules for the Seidel Award.

B. Annual Meeting

Comments were received about the just concluded Annual Conference including:

1. The gap between the Exhibit Hall and the Banquet Social Hour seemed excessive to some people but this could have been mainly due to the conference location. Those attending from central Iowa didn't have a hotel room to wait in.
2. Some people expressed an interest in having a shorter 2nd day. This could be done provided every other session qualified for CEU's. The present schedule was adopted a few years ago because one of the opening sessions did not qualify for CEU's. The primary purpose of the conference is operator education, and it has always been the goal to offer at least 1.0 CEU's for the conference.
3. We are now about 18 months away from our 2023 conference and we need to get RFP's sent out for the 2023 and 2024 conferences. Jay is going to work on that.
4. There were problems with AV issues that occurred because the venue insisted that we use their projectors and there was a delay in getting the site's IT person to address the issue.

C. Awards

No report.

D. Biosolids

No report.

E. Collection Systems

Curt Kampman provided a written report of the past year's activities including:

1. Due to ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the Collection System Specialty Conference was held as a series of three virtual webinars on March 4, 2021, March 11, 2021, and March 18, 2021. The virtual webinar series had 64, 76, and 64 total attendees for each event, with approximately 14 vendor sponsorships. David Haugen of V&K served as Collection System Specialty Conference Coordinator. Curt Buhr with Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) provided audio and visual technical assistance/hosting for the virtual webinar series.
2. Due to the virtual nature of the 2021 Specialty Conference program, the Collection System Certification Exam with optional Review Session, PACP Recertification, and PACP/LACP/MACP Training were not included in the virtual webinar series in March 2021, but were rescheduled to coincide with the IAWEA Annual Conference in September 2021. Unfortunately, the rescheduled PACP Recertification and PACP/LACP/MACP Training were eventually cancelled due to the number of registrations not meeting the minimum threshold requirements for conducting the class. The Collection System Certification Exam with optional Review Session proceeded as planned on September 24, 2021 with over 40 registrants. The review session is to be taught by Steven Moehlmann.
3. The Collection System Committee met at the following dates and times throughout the 2021 calendar year:
 - a. April 15, 2021, Virtual Meeting
 - b. September 23, 2021, Prairie Meadows, Altoona, IA
 - c. December 2, 2021, Best Western Regency Inn, Marshalltown, IA (*scheduled*)
4. The Collection System Operator Exam is available online. The online test can be taken at Des Moines Area Community College and Iowa Western Community College.
5. The Golden Manhole Society is a self-governing body but reports through the Collection System Committee. The Golden Manhole Society did not make any awards in 2021, but the Society plans to accept nominations for the 2022 calendar year. The award announcement will be made at the Collection System Specialty Conference, with each individual scheduled to receive their award at the IAWEA Annual Conference.

F. Education

Patrick Brown mentioned that the Operators/Pretreatment Conference was planned for September, 2022 at DMACC in Newton.

G. Exhibitors

There was a great turnout and strong support from the vendors which was somewhat surprising with the pandemic situation.

H. Financial Review

Keith Hobson reported that the committee reviewed the 2020 finances and found that IAWEA accounts increased by about \$3,900. This was mainly due to insurance payments received for the cancellation of the Biosolids, Annual, and Operators conferences. This insurance will not cover pandemics in the future. Both reserve accounts are in good shape at 50% of annual revenue. Some MA's are increasing this level

to 100% because of the many cancellations experienced during the pandemic. This is something that the Board may want to consider for the future.

I. Government Affairs

Greg Sindt reported that the 4-state EPA meeting is scheduled for the week of January 24, 2022.

J. Historian

No report.

K. Industrial Pretreatment

No report.

L. Laboratory Practices

No report.

M. Maintenance

Bob Ranson reported that the 2021 virtual conference cleared about \$2,600. Next year's conference is scheduled to be held in person.

N. Membership

Jason Loots reported that our combined WEF and Iowa Only membership stands at 586. There was a brief discussion about IA-AWWA overtures about some collaboration however no specifics were mentioned.

O. Newsletter

Jon Koch submitted a written report. The committee was able to publish a newsletter every quarter and supply our members with the latest information. Our contract with Kelman, the newsletter publisher, runs through 2023. While we have not made any money on the newsletter, we have also had no publishing costs. New committee members and content ideas are welcome at any time.

P. Nominating

No report.

Q. Operator Certification

Jim Utter reported that IDNR is working on a 5-year strategic plan but there is no indication of what that might contain. Some possibilities are a new plant classification system and a new class of certification for on-site treatment systems.

R. Public Relations/Public Education

No report.

S. Research

Patrick Brown passed along a comment from Mike Roth that after his presentation on Wednesday he received offers from a couple of people to join the committee.

T. Safety

No report.

U. Small Communities

No report.

V. Water for People

Taylor Hopper submitted a written report and touched briefly on the highlights. All fundraising in 2020 was done virtually and the committee is looking forward to in person efforts in 2022.

W. Website

Mark Jones reported that the Members Only section of the website was causing some confusion about its purpose. It currently has electronic copies of the newsletter and forum discussions. The forum discussions have not been used and the newsletter is emailed to members who desire it. The confusion is that members think this is where they can view their membership info and join or renew. The website is not designed to conduct those activities. Mark sought advice from the Board about continuing the Members Only section. The consensus was that unless someone could think of a compelling reason for keeping a Members Only section the webmaster was free to do what he thought best.

X. Young Professionals

Adam Smith reported that he would like to thank the Board for their support for sponsoring his attendance at YP summits. The committee met in person recently for the first time since the start of the pandemic. He related the importance of in person get togethers as the best way to recruit YP's and committee members.

ITEM V: OFFICERS' REPORTS

A. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that IAWEA had a net increase of \$58,216.39 since the first of the year. This increase was mainly due to receipts from Annual Conference registration. This will be offset with bills from the venue. There was also a small amount of income from the Regions and the Money Market account. John Ringlestein and Keth Hobson recommended that we move a substantial amount of the Operations account to the Money Market to receive a much greater interest rate. It was moved by Dan Miers, and seconded by Steve Hoambrecker, to move the money. Motion carried. It was moved by Mike Tripp, and seconded by Dan Miers, to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

B. Secretary's Report

No report.

C. Delegates' Report

Steve Hoambrecker reported that WEF has adopted a new Code of Conduct. Keith Hobson stated that this was due to a situation with one MA who had a member they wanted to expel but WEF did not have a process for this.

D: Regional Directors

Region 1: Lyle Kreuger reported that their fall meeting would be October 27th in Manchester. They will be touring some facilities tomorrow to judge their Operator of the Year award.

Region 2: Darin Jacobs reported that their fall meeting would be held October 14th which will be AWWA topics. This meeting will be in person only.

Region 3: No report.

Region 4: Mike Tripp reported they had their fall meeting will be on October 1st in Griswold.

Region 5: Region 5 held their spring meeting in Huxley and it was in person. Their fall meeting is October 27th in Newton.

Region 6: Region 6 just held their annual meeting last month. They plan to return to a spring meeting next year.

E: Correspondence

None.

ITEM VI: DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Plant Optimization Program

The person who requested that this be placed on the agenda did not attend. No discussion and no action.

B. Other Items

Jason Loots asked about giving away Iowa Only memberships and Annual Conference registration at the region meetings. One Annual Conference registration is available to each region at one of their meetings. This includes conference registration only. Any transportation or lodging costs are the responsibility of the attendee or the region if they desire to do so. The awardee must be a current IAWEA member before the drawing.

Keith Hobson discussed the problems WEF has been experiencing with their new AMS (membership database) system. The first trial ended in complete failure and the contractor was forced to make significant changes. It is hoped that the new system will be up and running by the first of the year. The next step for IAWEA is for the Secretary to compile the latest Iowa Only member info from the Annual Conference registration along with the list of certified collection systems operators. The WEF database can then be used to join or renew WEF membership, Iowa Only membership, or renew IAWEA Voluntary Collection Systems certificates. Eventually we will use their event registration system as well as that will allow us to verify member status during registration.

Keith also reported that WEF has several focus groups working on various initiatives. The most significant may be one that is concentrating on operator certification. WEFTEC will be in person this year, but attendance is expected to be down due to the pandemic situation. All WEF specialty conferences in 2022 are expected to be in person as well.

ITEM VII: CONCENSUS & ASSIGNMENTS

None.

ITEM VIII: ADJOURNMENT

President Brown declared the meeting adjourned at 5:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McElvogue, IAWEA Secretary